

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**LOVE FIELD SERVICE
INTERPRETATION PROCEEDING**

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Docket OST-98-4363

**CONSOLIDATED ANSWER OF
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.
TO MOTIONS FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

On August 25, 1998 the Department issued Order 98-8-29, in order to help resolve the dispute currently underway in various Texas courts involving Love Field air service “by issuing a ruling on the federal law questions that are the principal issues underlying the litigation.” Order at 3. The Department invited comments from interested parties on those federal issues within 14 days (September 8) and reply comments seven days thereafter (September 15), before it makes its ruling.

On August 31, September 1 and September 2, 1998, respectively, the City of Fort Worth, Texas (“Fort Worth”), the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (“DFW Airport”), and American Airlines (“American”) filed separate motions for progressively greater extensions of the comment dates established by Order 98-8-29. Fort Worth requests that the initial comment period be extended to 30 days from the issuance of Order 98-8-29 and the reply comment period be extended to 15 **days**.^{1/} DFW Airport requests that the comment date be extended to the later of October 8, 1998,

^{1/} Fort Worth also filed a Motion to Dismiss Proceeding and a “Request for Disclosure by the Department” contemporaneously with its Motion for Additional Time.

or 30 days after the Department rules on DFW Airport's concurrently filed Petition for Reconsideration. American seeks a **60-day** extension for initial comments (to November 6) and a 30-day reply comment period (December 7).

Southwest Airlines Co., whose principal base of operations as well as corporate headquarters is located at Love Field, has a direct and profound interest in the outcome of this proceeding. Southwest agrees with the Department that significant federal issues have been implicated in the litigation currently pending in the Texas courts, and that those federal issues should be addressed promptly by the Department in order to help bring to closure the long-raging dispute that has created needless and injurious uncertainty over the role of Love Field in the national air transportation system.

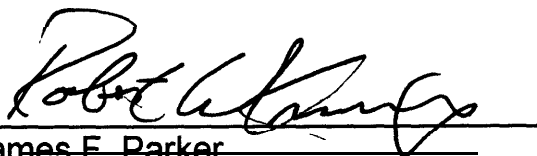
Accordingly, while Southwest does not oppose a modest extension of the comment dates as a reasonable accommodation to the parties in light of other workload demands, any extension should be no more than a week to 10 days at the maximum. The parties have not demonstrated any valid basis for a longer extension, which would only delay a resolution of the important federal issues and perpetuate the uncertainty which is harmful and unfair to Southwest as well as to other parties. As the Department noted in Order 98-8-29, the parties are already quite familiar with, and have extensively briefed, most of the issues in question. In fact, judging from the lengthy pleadings submitted along with the motions for extension of time, the moving parties have already developed their positions quite

extensively on the issues raised by the Department in Order 98-8-29, so that significant additional time would not appear to be necessary for that purpose.

WHEREFORE, Southwest requests that the Department grant no more than a short extension of time, 10 days at the most, for filing comments in this proceeding. Southwest also requests that the Department issue its ruling on the motions for additional time by the close of business tomorrow, September 3, so that the parties can plan their schedules accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Kneisley", is written over a horizontal line.

James F. Parker

Vice President - General Counsel

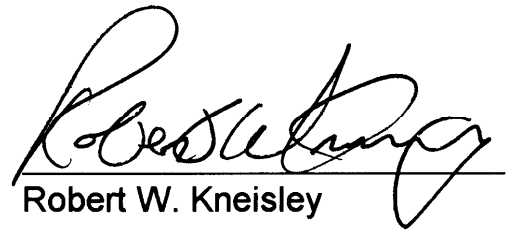
Robert W. Kneisley

Associate General Counsel - Federal Affairs

September 2, 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document by fax (where indicated) or first-class mail on all persons named on the attached service list.



Robert W. Kneisley

September 2, 1998

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